

REMARKS

The applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the application and request reexamination and reconsideration of the application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

The applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 40-68 and 71-74.

The Examiner rejects claims 69 and 70 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by the Brimstone "FAS Military Analysis" article. The Examiner states that "Brimstone discloses a launcher platform support structure (the airplane of Fig. 2) arranged to be elevated and rotated (the airplane elevates and rotates) including a top plate (the top plate structure in Fig. 1); a plurality of rails disposed on the airplane to support the missiles thereon [and] Figure 1 shows the rails have at least one rail elevated above the other rails and offset rearward from the other rails".

However, in contrast to the applicants' claims 69 and 70 as amended, Brimstone does not disclose a platform support structure configured and arranged to be mounted on a launch vehicle and to be elevated and rotated relative to the launch vehicle.

In other words, in contrast to the applicants' claims 69 and 70 which claim a platform support structure which is not the launch vehicle itself, Brimstone discloses a platform support structure which is the launch vehicle. Accordingly, the applicants' claims 69 and 70 are not anticipated by Brimstone, and thus claims 69 and 70 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

The applicants again acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's determination that

claims 40-74 and 71-74 are in condition for allowance.

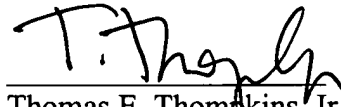
Each of Examiner's rejections of claims 69-70 have been addressed and traversed.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 69-70 are also in condition for allowance.

Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason this Response is found to be incomplete, or if at any time it appears that a telephone conference with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts at (781) 890-5678.

Respectfully submitted,


Thomas E. Thompson, Jr.
Reg. No. 47,136